

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 EB-11 SP-03 IGA-02 EUR-25 IO-14

H-03 PRS-01 PA-04 SWF-02 INR-11 SCI-06 DRC-01 RSC-01

/119 W

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R 190950Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3836

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 10170

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN

SUBJ: US-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 176399

1. WE WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S THINKING WITH RESPECT TO
ASEAN AND AGREE THAT CONSTRUCTIVE OFFER OF CONSULTATIONS
IN CONTEXT OUR TRADE ACT WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES COULD BE
OF BENEFIT. OUR COMMENTS ALSO REPRESENT GENERAL AGREE-
MENT WITH TELEGRAMS FROM OTHER ASEAN POSTS.

2. WE AGREE GENERALLY WITH PROS LISTED IN REFTTEL.
UNLESS OUR APPROACH TO ASEAN COUNTRIES, HOWEVER,
IS VERY PRECISE WE ARE NOT AS SANGUINE THAT WE CAN
AVOID PRESSURES, ESPECIALLY ON QUESTIONS OF AID. OUR
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IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT ASEAN CONSULATIONS WITH OTHERS

TO DATE HAVE BEEN ON BASIS ASEAN INITIATIVES IN AREAS OF SPECIFIC COMMON INTEREST TO THEM. EXAMPLES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH EEC ON TRADE CONCESSION, WITH JAPAN ON REDUCTION OF SYNTHETIC RUBBER PRODUCTION AND WITH AUSTRALIA ON AID ALL INVOLVE MATTERS WHERE ASEAN HAS EITHER INITIATED PRESSURE OR SEEN DIRECT TANGIBLE BENEFIT FROM CONSULTATIONS. FACING LIMITED NUMBERS OF OPTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE, NONCOMPETITIVE COLLABORATION, MEMBERS APPEAR TO RELY PREPONDERANTLY ON BILATERAL CHANNELS AND ESTABLISHED FORA IN MOST INTERNATIONAL MATTERS, GENERALLY REMAINING PARSIMONIOUS IN COMMITMENTS TO ASEAN UNDERTAKINGS.

3. WE WOULD ALSO QUESTION WHETHER ASEAN MIGHT PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AVENUE FOR EXERTING INFLUENCE ON INDONESIA. WE WOULD WANT MUCH MORE PRECISE IDEA OF WHAT INFLUENCE DEPARTMENT HAS IN MIND. OUR CURRENT COMMUNICATIONS ARE ADEQUATE AND MOST OF OUR PRIMARY PROBLEMS ARE ALREADY BILATERAL MATTERS NOT PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

4. WE SHOULD ALSO DEVISE APPROACH THAT WILL NOT THROW US IN CENTER OF ARGUMENTS AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES OVER SUCH THINGS AS OIL PRICES. I AM NOT SURE, ALSO HOW WE AVOID HIGHLIGHTING FACT THAT WE HAVE SPECIAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH PHILIPPINES QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WITH OTHER ASEAN NATIONS.

5. I AGREE WITH OTHER POSTS THAT WE SHOULD NOT CENTER THIS ON INDONESIA AND, PARTICULARLY, ON MALIK. I WOULD SUGGEST, INSTEAD, THAT WHEN TRADE ACT IS PASSED WE DETERMINE VERY PRECISELY WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY TO ASEAN COUNTRIES ABOUT GENERALIZED PREFERENCES, MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, AND ANY OTHER SPECIFIC APPLICATION OF LEGISLATION. I SUGGEST WE THEN HAVE EACH AMBASSADOR IN ASEAN COUNTRY MAKE DEMARCHE INFORMING GOVERNMENT OF PASSAGE OF TRADE ACT AND EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS OF UNITED STATES TO DISCUSS FEATURES OF ACT, EITHER BILATERALLY WITH EACH COUNTRY OR WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES AS GROUP. WE COULD MAKE SAME APPROACH, AFTER APPROACH IN CAPITALS, TO ASSEMBLED ASEAN AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON.

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THIS WOULD THEN THROW QUESTION TO ASEAN COUNTRIES; IF THEY SHOULD FOLLOW UP, INITIATIVE WOULD COME FROM THEM. IF WE MAKE APPROACH TOO DIRECT OR TOO GRANDIOSE, INDONESIANS, AT LEAST, ARE GOING TO WONDER WHAT'S UP.

6. UNTIL THIS PROCESS HAS TAKEN PLACE I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER OBSERVER PARTICIPATION; THESE, TOO, SHOULD BE AT

ASEAN INITIATIVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE PROMOTION, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MEETING AGENDA, PETROLEUM, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JAKART10170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740228-0892
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740837/aaaabfqc.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: STATE 176399
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: ECON, ID, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005